



Division Newsletter

Dutchess County Msgr. Sheahan Division # 1

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Gene Noone - Editor

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**September
2018**

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Matt Fitzgerald

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Presidents Message



Brothers and Friends of the AOH,

Welcome back brothers. I hope you all enjoyed your summer break with your friends and families. I want to thank everyone for the well wishes for my wedding. We had a perfect day and a terrific honeymoon in Hawaii. Before I get started with AOH business I want to personally thank CJ Tomaskovic for going above and beyond when I asked him to help out during the summer months.

We have a lot of business in the immediate future that needed attention and he contacted the division members, volunteer organizations, and set us up for the East Fishkill Parade. From the bottom of my heart “go raibh maith agat,” which according to google translate is Irish for “thank you.”

Our very busy September and October schedule begins on September 8th for the Wappingers Falls Community Day. The division will be showcasing the tent and we can work on membership outreach and selling t-shirts. More details will follow in an email later this week. The community day is from 1-8PM so please try and free up an hour or two to help man the booth. One week later on September 15th is the East Fishkill Community Day. Details for this event will be mentioned in Vice President McVicker’s newsletter submission. Our next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday September 20th at 7:30PM at the Knights of Columbus in the Village of Wappingers Falls. I will be in Ireland but please try your best to attend. We only have one more meeting prior to our yearly charity dinner dance at the Elks Club on October 20th. I am requesting that each brother provide AT LEAST one gift for our raffle or silent auction. It is our largest money maker and enables us to support many local charitable organizations and causes. Our raffle is always a huge hit with the people who attend. It also goes without saying but attendance is paramount. Please contact friends, family members and anyone you may know that would be interested in a fun night out with great food, cheap drinks and phenomenal music. We will not be printing tickets this year so please keep track of who is coming and where you would like to sit. This makes it easier for all of our table arrangements and planning.

There will be an upcoming dinner dance meeting for whoever wants to be involved. This year will be a more collaborative effort which will hopefully make it a bit less stressful for the dinner dance chairperson. A follow up email detailing the time and place of the meeting will be sent in the next few days.

Once again welcome back from summer break and hope to see you all over the next few weeks at the community days.

Yours in friendship,

Michael Shepherd

AOH President

D. C. Msgr. Sheahan Division 1



**GRANT ME A SENSE OF HUMOR, LORD,
THE SAVING GRACE TO SEE A JOKE,
TO WIN SOME HAPPINESS FROM LIFE,
AND PASS IT ON TO OTHER FOLK.**





Historian's Corner

The summer of 2018 is fast coming to a close...Labor Day weekend is less than a week away as I write this piece. With the beginning of September, our program year begins anew. That is not to say that things have not been going on in the Division. Jack Fedigan has embarked on the Football Ticket raffle. I picked my packet up from him on August 15 and have over 100 sold or solid commitments. Gene Noone has been busy getting his "presses" ready to roll out the coming editions of our newsletters, as well as designing the raffle posters and other tasks related to this our major annual fund-raising activity. Speaking of the newsletter, I am making a promise to have my article submitted on a timely basis. And, I am again broadcasting my perennial request for your ideas and suggestions. I also made some mid-year resolutions, which I trust that I will keep. That will be in sharp contrast to my New Year's resolutions. Since I have officially entered into my fourth year of "octogenarianism", I used these past several weeks to reflect on what lies ahead. [No, it is not true that my most favorite song is "Nearer My God To Thee".] But there are some activities to which I have committed in addition to my continuing participation in St. Peter's CCD program. In his homily last Sunday, the 19th, Fr. Curley, Pastor of St. Peter's, talked about what might best be described as a spiritual "bucket list". My own ideas, projections, and goals were being formulated before that, but I reckon that the bucket is a good place for me to store them as I continue along life's journey. Two of the newer projects include a Bible studies program operating out of St. Peter's, and a spiritual encounter organized through the diocese. The former is pretty much of a full program year's duration, with the latter being an 8-week commitment. A third project I am planning to carry out in the Spring of next year is to make at least one presentation on An Gorta Mór at the Hyde Park library and/or elsewhere. Finally, as part of my "Time Marches On" theme, I am putting pen to paper [or better yet, keystroke to computer screen] to write that book I have promising myself that I would do for years. The working title is "Memories of a B I C". I could have worked the word narrowback into it, but... Okay, on now to the actual article for this month's newsletter.

It is my feeling that there are certain things in the history of a person, culture, or a nation that bear repeating, if not kept on the "middle-burner". Many of us who grew up around the time of World War II will remember the slogan, actually it was more of a war cry, --- REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR. In school, learning about the history of America we were exposed to other such slogans...REMEMBER THE ALAMO and REMEMBER THE MAINE, just to list two more. [I could probably use the remainder of this article to list many other such war-time and political slogans.] Try as I might, I could not resist inserting one from The Great War...THE YANKS ARE COMING. One other is somewhat related to the purpose of this article and that is NEVER AGAIN. Seemingly unrelated is this slogan from Jewish history "NEVER AGAIN. If pressed for an answer, I suspect many of us would say that the phrase refers to the Holocaust of first half of the 20th century. Actually, NEVER AGAIN is not limited to the horrors of a particular time or place, nor by extent or methods, but rather it symbolizes the Jewish people's collective resolve to never stand by the blood of their brethren and to never allow innocents to be brutalized for the crime of being Jewish. The earliest reference to that phrase that I have come across is the battle at Masada, which name has been used as a code name for at least one Israeli rescue or covert operation. The siege of Masada was one of the final events in the First Jewish-Roman War, occurring from 73 to 74 AD on and around a large hilltop in current-day Israel. The siege was chronicled by Flavius Josephus, a Jewish rebel leader captured by the Romans, in whose service he became a historian. According to Josephus the long siege by the troops of the Roman Empire led to the mass suicide of the Sicarii rebels and resident Jewish families of the Masada fortress. The siege has become controversial, with some Jews regarding Masada as a place of reverence, commemorating ancestors who fell heroically against oppression, and others regarding it as a testament to extremism and a refusal to compromise.

More important than any single event, however, is the Jewish word "Zachor". It is translated as "to remember", but this word also has significant relevance to the Irish experience, in particular, The Great Hunger. The significant impact of "Zachor" (to remember), is to ensure that the past will never be forgotten and its memory will always serve as a guide for the future. Granted, Ireland has experienced many things that bear remembrance, but a case can be made for The Great Hunger being among the most important. There are those who feel that this period of Irish history is best left in the past for a variety of reasons, chief among them being the shame and degradation that the Irish populace experienced at the time. Then there are those who compare this point in history to that of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Instead of accepting His ignominious death on the cross as a common criminal, the Cross has been championed as the symbol of Christ's victory over death, and continues to be the leading symbol of our Christian faith. So too, must we look at the cruel horrors of The Great Hunger in a similar way.

(Continued on the next page)



Our annual projects in memory of that period...the current Outreach Center dinners, our contributions to food pantries and programs in the county, and our past VA Hospital picnics...all memorialize An Gorta Mór. Although it does not seem to have been well implemented, New York State's school curriculum developed a segment on The Irish Famine. It was to be launched in September 2001, but the attack on the World Trade Center Twin Towers pushed it to the sidelines. [I will have more on that and the curriculum at a later time.] For now, I want to highlight the movie to be released in the United States on September 28, entitled "Black 47". The Irish Central News Online summarizes the movie's plot this way: "It's 1847 and Ireland is in the grip of the Great Famine that has ravaged the country for two long years. Feeney, a hardened Irish Ranger who has been fighting for the British Army abroad, abandons his post to return home and reunite with his family. He's seen more than his share of horrors, but nothing prepares him for the famine's hopeless destruction of his homeland that has brutalized his people and where there seems to be no law and order. He discovers his mother starved to death and his brother hanged by the brutal hand of the English. With little else to live for, he sets a destructive path to avenge his family." The news article continues: "Black 47 is set during the Great Irish Famine and stars Hugo Weaving (Hacksaw Ridge, The Lord of the Rings, The Matrix), Jim Broadbent (Oscar winner for Iris) and the prolific Irish screen and stage actor Stephen Rea (The Crying Game, Michael Collins). Joining them are rising international actors James Frecheville (Animal Kingdom, The Drop) and Freddie Fox (King Arthur: Legend of the Sword) along with a strong young Irish cast including Barry Keoghan (Dunkirk, The Killing of a Sacred Deer), Moe Dunford (Michael Inside, Patrick's Day) and Sarah Greene (Noble, Penny Dreadful).

I am not going to include any humorous tidbits or recipes in this edition, but will do so in future articles. However, between now and our meeting on September 20, I would like to suggest that you dust off your record collections or go to YouTube or Pandora and listen to some of the songs written about The Great Hunger period. You will remember, I am sure that in "The Fields of Athenry", Michael is sent off to a penal colony for stealing Trevelyan's [Trevalian] corn. The song "Black 47" also references Trevalian, who was responsible for administering the famine relief program in Ireland at the time. One verse of the song posits:

*"God's curse upon you Lord Trevalian
May your great Queen Victoria rot in hell
'Til England and its Empire
Answer before heaven
For the crimes they committed in Black 47*

NOTE: Maybe that time referenced above has come. From time to time in future articles I will make more references to The Great Hunger. And, based upon his significant role, I will definitely write more about Trevalian next month.

Matt Fitzgerald
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845-454-5308

Division Activities

AOH Activities

September 8th for the Wappingers Falls Community Day. The division will be showcasing the tent and we can work on membership outreach and selling t-shirts.

East Fishkill Community Day will be held on Saturday, September 15th. We have registered for the Parade, and to set up a tent. We will need marchers, to include: color guard, banner, float
We will also need members to "man" the "Vendor Booth" - our tent.

Our yearly charity dinner dance at the Elks Club on October 20th. It is requested that each brother provide AT LEAST one gift for our raffle or silent auction.

- ◆ September 8th - Wappingers Community Day
- ◆ September 15th - East Fishkill Community Day
- ◆ September 20th - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 18th - Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 20th - Charity Dinner Dance & Raffle

Just some of the activities your

Dutchess County,

Division 1, AOH is involved in.

Be a good member and join in, be ACTIVE!

Brothers,

This coming Saturday, September 8, 2018 we will be using our new INFORMATIONAL BOOTH to promote our organization at the Wappingers Falls Community Day. It will be held at Schlathaus Park (126 All Angels Hill Road) from 1 to 8PM.

We will not be marching but need to have enough brothers to man our booth. It will have shirts, hats, etc. and applications available for the public.

In addition, regarding anyone who still owes their dues, please remit payment as soon as possible.

In Brotherhood & Motto,
Jack Fedigan
256 Osborne Hill Road
Fishkill, NY 12524



*It's always time for membership, ask your friends, neighbors, even members of your church!
The only requirements are that you need to be a male, at least 16 years old, Irish and Catholic.
Help make our Division grow. Bring someone to a meeting!*

Gentlemen,

Please note that the East Fishkill Community Day will be held on Saturday, September 15th. We have registered for the Parade, and to set up a tent. We will need marchers, to include: color guard, banner, float, We will also need members to "man" the "Vendor Booth" - our tent.

We will need 2-3 people at the tent at all times, and will need to be there between 1 and 7PM. We will need to set up and break down the table/tent & inventory (t-shirts, AOH information/pamphlets etc).

Hopefully we can have a strong showing for the parade (at least a dozen marchers?) and can find a few volunteers to be at the tent (maybe break it into time slots?):

1 - 3PM (these folks will set up tent, etc. but won't be able to march in the parade)

2:30 - 4:30PM

4 - 6PM

5:30 - 7:30PM

Parade Line-up - 1PM

Parade Start - 2PM

Community Event - following parade until 7PM



Community Day Event is held at the East Fishkill Rec on Rout 376 (next to Wells Fargo)

PLEASE CONTACT EITHER CJ TOMASKOVIC OR GERRY MCVICKER WITH YOUR PLANS FOR THE DAY...

WILL YOU BE MARCHING? COLOR GUARD? BANNER?

CAN YOU "MAN" THE TENT? IF SO, WHAT TIME SLOT?

CJ is planning to march, but he will also help load up the tent, table, chairs, t-shirts, etc from storage, and then head to lineup.

CJ is also taking the 5:30 - 7:30 time slot to help break everything down, and get it back to Jack's.

Please Contact:

CJ Tomaskovic at ctomaskovic@rhinebeckassetmanagement.com

-or-

Gerry McVicker at mcvickerg@aol.com

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Attention, all AOH members, your help is needed. This newsletter needs sponsors, for a small yearly fee we will print a business card sized ad monthly. This newsletter goes out to all our membership and to several other Irish organizations. If you or someone you do business with wants to advertise with us, just get a business card to the newsletter editor. And the money to our Financial Secretary the cost is just \$25.00 per year.



Important Dates

- ◆ September 8th, Wappingers Community Day
- ◆ September 15th, East Fishkill Community Day
- ◆ September 20th, Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 18th, Regular Business Meeting
- ◆ October 20th, Charity Dinner Dance & Raffle

Prayers for the Sick

Paul Becker Deacon Bob & Judy Horton
Noel Morris Nathan Redmond
Dan Reilly Bill Schimpf
Jim Sweeney

* In Memoriam *



"THE CELT, AND HIS CROMLECHS, AND HIS PILLAR-STONES, THESE WILL NOT CHANGE MUCH - INDEED, IT IS DOUBTFUL IF ANYBODY AT ALL CHANGES AT ANY TIME. IN SPITE OF HOSTS OF DENIERS, AND ASSERTERS, AND WISE-MEN, AND PROFESSORS, THE MAJORITY STILL ARE ADVERSE TO SITTING DOWN TO DINE THIRTEEN AT A TABLE, OR BEING HELPED TO SALT, OR WALKING UNDER A LADDER, OR SEEING A SINGLE MAGPIE FLIRTING HIS CHECKERED TALE. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, CHILDREN OF LIGHT WHO HAVE SET THEIR FACES AGAINST ALL THIS, ALTHOUGH EVEN A NEWSPAPERMAN, IF YOU ENTICE HIM INTO A CEMETERY AT MIDNIGHT, WILL BELIEVE IN PHANTOMS, FOR EVERYONE IS A VISIONARY, IF YOU SCRATCH HIM DEEP ENOUGH. BUT THE CELT, UNLIKE ANY OTHER, IS A VISIONARY WITHOUT SCRATCHING."

~~ William Butler Yeats ~~



ANCIENT ORDER
OF
HIBERNIANS
IN AMERICA

Dutchess County
Msgr. Sheahan
Division #1

PO Box 1530 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

